

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 00965 090805Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-13 H-01 SS-15
NSC-05 /073 W

-----090919Z 082813 /23 10

R 090715Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 0965

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON ELAB PFOR PINT SZ

SUBJ: REFERENDUM MAR 12-13

1. SUMMARY: ON MAR 12-13 SWISS VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE OR REJECT THREE IMPORTANT MEASURES. ONE WOULD REQUIRE A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN SWITZERLAND BY 250,000 OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS. A SECOND WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF NATURALIZATIONS TO 4,000 EACH YEAR. A THIRD WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL TREATIES, INCLUDING THOSE NOW IN FORCE, BE SUBJECT TO POPULAR REFERENDUM. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED BY GOVT IS MUCH MORE LIMITED, BUT WOULD ADD FURTHER FORMAL RESTRICTIONS ON CENTRAL GOVT TREATY-MAKING POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAR 12-13 SWISS VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE ON THREE INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY ACTION NATIONALE, THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT OF VALENTIN OEKEN AND BY MOUVEMENT REPUBLICAIN, THAT OF JAMES SCHWARZENBAHC. THESE INITIATIVES ARE A PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT OF SCHWARZENBACH, OEKEN AND THEIR SUPPORTERS TO REDUCE FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN SWITZERLAND.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 00965 090805Z

3. THE EFFECT OF THE FIRST INITIATIVE WOULD BE TO REQUIRE THAT THE GOVT TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS REQUIRED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS IN SWITZERLAND BY ABOUT 250,000 OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS RESIDED IN SWITZERLAND AT THE END OF 1976, INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS EXCEPTED, WAS 959,000; THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 516,000 FOREIGN WORKERS,

ANNUAL OR MORE PERMANENT. ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, NEARLY ALL NEWSPAPERS, THE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND OTHER POWER GROUPS OPPOSE THE MEASURE AND EXPECT IT TO BE REJECTED.

4. A SECOND INITIATIVE WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF NATURALIZATIONS TO 4,000 A YEAR. 10,515 PEOPLE RECEIVED SWISS NATIONALIZATION IN 1976. AS IN THE CASE OF THE INITIATIVE REQUIRING THE REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS, ALL MAJOR PARTIES AND POWER GROUPS OPPOSE PASSAGE. HOWEVER, SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A DANGER THAT LACK OF INTEREST BY VOTERS OPPOSED TO THE RESTRICTION ON NATURALIZATION IS SUCH THAT THEY MIGHT NOT GO TO THE POLLS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO PREVENT PASSAGE.

5. A THIRD INITIATIVE WOULD SUBJECT ALL TREATIES SIGNED BY THE FEDERATION TO POPULAR REFERENDUM, INCLUDING THOSE NOW IN FORCE. ALL MAJOR PARTIES OPPOSE PASSAGE. THE FEDERAL COUNCIL WAS PERSUADED THAT SOME FURTHER LIMITATION ON THE TREATY-MAKING POWER OF THE CONFEDERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED AND PREPARED A COUNTER-PROJECT WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND MOST OF THE PRESS. AT PRESENT, TREATIES ARE SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM ONLY IF THEY ARE OF INDEFINITE OR MORE THAN 15 YEARS DURATION, OR CANNOT BE DENOUNCED. THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL WOULD, IF ADOPTED, REQUIRE A REFERENDUM ON TREATIES COVERING COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OF ANY KIND OR MEMBERSHIP IN CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. TREATIES OF INDEFINITE DURATION OF WHICH CANNOT BE DENOUNCED WOULD, AS AT PRESENT, BE SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM IF 30,000 SWISS VOTERS PETITIONED FOR ONE; THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERN 00965 090805Z

EXTENDED TO INCLUDE TREATIES ON MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHERE NO LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY IS INVOLVED AND ON MULTILATERAL LEGAL SYSTEMS OR PROVISIONS TO BE IMPOSED IN SWITZERLAND. FINALLY, THE PARLIAMENT WOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF SUBMITTING ALL OTHER NEW TREATIES TO REFERENDUM. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL WILL PASS, BUT THEY HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT ON THIS AS ON OTHER INITIATIVES, PREDICTING THE OUTCOME IS DIFFICULT. DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERN00965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770080-0997
Format: TEL
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaacrtk.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3169636
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFERENDUM MAR 12-13
TAGS: ECON, ELAB, PFOR, PINT, SZ
To: STATE ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009